

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 7 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claim 1 is amended; Claims 5 and 6 are canceled; and no claims are added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Publication 2003/0111570 to Brown in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,436,253 to Watanabe.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or suggest that a restriction portion is disposed on the side surface portion of the block body with the restriction portion restricting being fit to the clamp member to restrict upper and lower movements of the clamp member, and a guide portion being disposed at an opening portion of said concave portion, the guide portion being brought into contact with a side end portion of said tape to align said tape and said block body, as previously recited in dependent Claims 5 and 6 and now recited in Claim 1. Further, the outstanding Office Action does not direct Applicants attention to a specific teaching in the applied art for the above discussed claim features.

Instead, Brown discloses a block assembly 28 having a leader block 60, a tape clamp 62 and an elastomeric member 64. As shown in Figure 3, each lip 82 defines an outer surface 84, a guide surface 86 and an undersurface 88. The undersurface 88 is configured to provide a positive engagement with a corresponding component of the tape clamp 62.

Watanabe discloses a clamping device 11 that includes a recess 13 provided in the hub 2 of a tape reel and a clamp 14 to fit in the recess of the hub reel. Two oppositely disposed legs 17 are integrally connected to the rear side 16b of base 16. Each leg 17 has a bulging catch 18 and each side wall of the recess 3 has a counter catch extension 15.

Notched portions 20 are provided on the inside walls of the recess 13 to allow flanges 16c to fit in the recess with the outer surface of the base 16 on the same level as the circumference of the reel hub.

Again, there is no teaching or suggestion in either Watanabe or Brown for a restriction portion disposed on the side surface portion of the block body with the restriction portion restricting being fit to the clamp member to restrict upper and lower movements of the clamp member, a guide portion that is disposed at an opening portion of the concave portion, with the guide portion being brought into contact with a side end portion of the tape to align the tape with the block body, as now claimed in Claim 1. As discussed above, Brown merely discloses a lip 82 having an outer surface 84, a guide surface 86 and an undersurface 88. Watanabe merely discloses the catch extensions 15 with the inner sides 21 and notched portions 20. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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